

REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

LAMBETH.—The district under the jurisdiction of the vestry of St. Mary, Lambeth, is one of very mixed character, the health in the suburbs of Brixton and Norwood counterbalancing the high mortality observed in the purlieus of the New Cut and Vauxhall. For the whole parish the birth and death rates for 1879 were 34.6 and 21.6 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 36.5 and 23.2 in the metropolis generally. The deaths of strangers numbered 370, which, when deducted, gave a rate of 20.2 per 1000; though it is not stated whether a corresponding allowance has been made for residents dying outside the district, instances of which must be numerous. Of the 5767 deaths 1014, or 17.6 per cent., occurred in the public institution, 439 in the workhouse, and 575 in the hospitals. The proportion of infantile deaths to the total mortality was 22.4 per cent., and of children under five years 41.5 per cent. Strangers dying in the Stockwell Hospitals and elsewhere being deducted, the number of zymotic deaths in Lambeth during the several quarters was 169, 160, 205, and 271. Of the 148 zymotic deaths of strangers during the year 93 were from scarlet fever alone, 49 of these being in the December quarter. In speaking of the spread of scarlet fever, Dr. Archer Farr urges that it is time some more stringent rules were adopted to prevent the spread of scarlet fever in public schools, by providing against the return of children to school too soon after convalescing from this disease. He suggests that parents should not only give notice of their child's illness, but should specify the nature of such illness, a form of certificate being supplied for filling in by the medical attendant, with the object of verifying the parents' statement; that a second certificate should be given producing evidence of the complete disinfection of the bedding, wearing apparel, and body of the patient, and fixing a date for the child's return; and that all absentees during the prevalence of scarlet fever, suffering from sore throat, or a *slight rash*, should not be re-admitted to school without a certificate from a medical man, showing that these had no connection with scarlet fever. Certainly, if precautions such as these could be carried out, we might hope to keep scarlet fever much more effectually in check than at present. Dr. Farr gives the number of deaths occurring from each of the zymotic disorders, but we notice that he offers no comment on the fatality of any of the other classes of disease within the district.

STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT.—Mr. Wilson's report for 1879 is very practical, and of a kind likely to be of much service to his sanitary authority. He gives in detail what health-officers too commonly neglect to give, a sketch of the sanitary condition of those localities in which any material change or improvement took place during the year; as well as the action taken for preventing the spread of disease. We are glad to find that a comprehensive sanitary survey of the district is being made, and that the medical officer devotes a large share of his time to its systematic inspection. With energetic work such as this, it is not surprising to learn that nearly everywhere throughout the district there are proofs of sanitary improvement and progress. During the year there were 321 births and 144 deaths in the district, against 300 and 192 in the preceding year. The birth-rate was 32, and the death-rate 14.4 per 1000 of the estimated population. The zymotic death-rate was equal to an annual mortality of 1.1 per 1000 against 4.5 in 1878. The mortality from measles and scarlet fever was much less than in the preceding year. No fatal case of diarrhoea was recorded, and only one death from whooping-cough, the widely spread prevalence of that disease in 1878 having left few susceptible persons unattacked. It is short-sighted of the sanitary authority to have shelved discussion as to the provision of a fever hospital, because infectious diseases are at present quiescent in the district.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

POTTER, H. P., F.R.C.S., appointed Medical Superintendent to St. Mary Abbott's Infirmary, Kensington, *vice* W. B. Whitmore, M.B., resigned.
ROBERTS, Robert, M.R.C.S., appointed Medical Officer to the Llanfair District of the St. Asaph Union.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

THOMSON, W. Sinclair, M.D., re-elected Medical Officer of Health for the Peterborough Urban Sanitary District.

THE Army Medical Department is sending out Mrs. Deeble and six lady-nurses to attend the sick and wounded in the Transvaal; and passage has been secured for these ladies in the Union Steamship Company's Royal Mail Steamer *Pretoria*, sailing from Southampton on the 27th instant. It will be remembered that Mrs. Deeble and her staff of lady-nurses rendered valuable assistance to the sick and wounded during the Zulu war.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday, January 13th.

Fever at Tandragee.—MR. FORSTER informed Mr. Gray that he had telegraphed to the Local Government Board, for information with regard to an alleged outbreak of fever at Tandragee. It had been caused, not by the importation of foreign flax, but by an impure well, which had been closed. Additional medical officers and inspectors had been sent to the district. Seven deaths had occurred, and not eleven, as had been stated.

The Contagious Diseases Acts.—On the motion of MR. CHILDERS, the following were appointed a Select Committee to inquire into the Contagious Diseases Acts of 1866-79, their administration, operation, and effect:—Mr. Massey, Mr. Stansfield, Mr. Cavendish Bentinck, Colonel Alexander, Viscount Crichton, Mr. Burt, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, Mr. Osborne Morgan, Mr. Cobbold, General Burnaby, Sir Henry Wolff, Mr. Ernest Noel, Colonel Digby, Mr. William Fowler, Mr. Hopwood, and five members to be nominated by the committee of selection.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

RADCLIFFE TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP.—The Examiners for the Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship give notice that the examination will be held in Lent Term, commencing on Tuesday, February 8th, at 10 A.M., in the Medical Department of the Museum. Candidates are requested to send their names to the Radcliffe Librarian, Museum, on or before February 1st.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted Members of the College, at a meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 18th instant.

Messrs. Joseph M. Prendergast, L.S.A., Melbourne; Arthur Hooley, L.R.C.P.Ed., Cobham, Surrey; Walter J. Clarke, Birmingham; William H. Sharples, Preston, Lancashire; William Sellers, M.B.Lond., Manchester; D'Arcy B. Carter, Leeds; William Loynd, Great Harwood, Lancashire; Robert L. Jones, L.S.A.Ireland, Bangor, N. Wales; William Holt, Camberwell; Samuel R. Matthews, Ross, Hereford; John H. Oates, Dewsbury; Frank E. C. Houghton, Dudley; Thomas J. Evans, Llanybyther, Carmarthenshire; William Stanwell, Rochdale; and Patrick M. Poett, L.K.Q.C.P.Ireland, Terenure, Co. Dublin.

Eight candidates were rejected.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.—At the Michaelmas Term Winter Commencements, held in the Examination Hall of Trinity College, on Wednesday, December 15th, the following Degrees in Medicine and Surgery, and Licence in Medicine, were conferred by the University Caput.

Bachelors in Surgery.—Henry Lewis Clare, Stuart Davis, William S. Gordon, John C. Martin, John M. Nicolls.
Bachelors in Medicine.—Austin Cockle, Stuart Davis, John Galbraith, John Mason, John C. Martin, John M. Nicolls, George de J. Patterson, George Scriven.
Master in Surgery.—William Cox Neville.
Doctors in Medicine.—George A. Bluett, Francis C. M'Nalty, W. C. Neville.
Licentiate in Medicine.—William Smyth.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their Examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, January 13th, 1881.

Conway, Thomas Henry, New Burwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Sumner, Joseph Henry Surtees, Redburn Street, Chelsea.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

Particulars of those marked with an asterisk will be found in the advertisement columnus.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

ARMAGH UNION.—Medical Officer for Richhill Dispensary District. Salary, £120 per annum, with £20 yearly as Medical Officer of Health, registration and vaccination fees. Election on the 31st instant.
BALLINROBE UNION.—Medical Officer for Ballinrobe Dispensary District. Salary, £100 per annum, with £25 yearly as Medical Officer of Health, registration and vaccination fees. Election on the 10th February.
BLACKBURN UNION.—Medical Officer to the Rishton District.
BRACKLEY UNION.—Medical Officer to the Sulgrave District.